

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR ACCESSING AND PERFORMING A
FUNCTION WITHIN AN INTERVERTEBRAL DISC**

ABSTRACT

5 *Sub B22*
Apparatus and methods are disclosed for accessing the interior of an
intervertebral disc to perform a function within the disc. The apparatus
comprises a catheter having a lumen; and a guide wire having a distal
portion and a proximal portion, and configured to be positioned within and
10 moved relative to the lumen of the catheter; wherein the guide wire is
capable of navigating itself within an intradiscal section of the intervertebral
to a selected section of the disc and the catheter is capable of being
advanced relative to the guide wire such that the catheter follows a path of
the guide wire within the intradiscal section of the disc to the selected
15 section. These apparatus and methods may be used for the treatment of
intervertebral disc disorders such as sealing fissures of the annulus fibrosus,
which may or may not be accompanied with contained or escaped
extrusions. These apparatus and methods may also be used for the removal
or addition of material to the intervertebral disc.